

fibrous layer allowing entrapped air to pass out of the material during processing of the material.

2. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to Claim 1 wherein a first fibrous layer is conjoined to the upper surface of the resin layer and a second fibrous layer is conjoined to the lower surface of the resin layer.

3. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to Claim 2 wherein the first and second fibrous layers are formed from the same material.

4. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to Claim 2 wherein the first and second fibrous layers are formed from different materials.

5. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to claim 1 wherein the fibrous layer is held in place by the inherent tack of the surface of the resin layer.

6. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to claim 1 wherein the fibrous layer is partially impregnated by resin.

7. (Amended) A preform multi-layer moulding material according to claim 1 wherein a tackifier and a binder are applied to at least one outer surface of the at least one fibrous layer.

8. (Amended) A preform multi-layer moulding material according to claim 1 wherein the fibrous layer is continuous.

9. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to claim 1 wherein the fibrous layer is discontinuous.

10. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to claim 1 wherein the resin system is a thermosetting polymer.

11. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to claim 10 wherein the thermosetting polymer is selected from epoxy, polyester, vinylester, polyimide, cyanate ester, phenolic and bismaleimide systems, modification thereof and blends thereof.

12. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to claim 1 wherein the fibrous layer is formed from a member of the group consisting of glass fibers, carbon fibers, polyethylene fibers, aramid fibers, natural fibers and modified natural fibers.

13. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to claim 1 wherein the fibers in the fibrous layer are unidirectional.

14. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to claim 1 wherein one or more fibrous layers of the material is a prepreg.

16. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material for use in the production of a surface layer comprising a multi-layered moulding material according to claim

17. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material for use in the production of a surface layer according to claim 16 in which a woven fibrous layer is conjoined to one surface and a nonwoven fibrous layer is conjoined to the opposing surface.

18. (Amended) A preform multi-layered moulding material according to claim 1 wherein the material is formed by placing the fibrous layer in contact with the resin layer.